



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,782	05/14/2001	Ikuya Morikawa	1081.1118	7025

21171 7590 02/26/2007
STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

BATES, KEVIN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2155

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/26/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/853,782

Applicant(s)

MORIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin Bates

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on January 23, 2007.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 7 has been newly added.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gai (6167445) in view of Prager (5838918).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Gai teaches a communication setting management system for distributing communication characteristics setting to a plurality of communication entities connected to a network (Column 5, line 65 – Column 6, line 2), comprising:

a setting template entry/edit unit operated by a administrator to enter or edit a setting template that collects contents to be set for the plurality of communication entities connected to the network (Column 12, lines 21 – 30; Column 12, lines 6 – 9), with reference to information on a concrete method of setting the communication entities;

a setting template storing unit storing each setting template entered or edited by the setting template entry/edit unit as operated by the administrator (Column 8, lines 1 – 5);

an application rule entry/edit unit as operated by a administrator to enter or edit application rules prescribing rules of corresponding to the setting template, entered or edited in the setting template entry/edit unit operated by the first administrator, which is to be applied to a communication having a specific attribute (Column 12, lines 21 – 24);

an application rule storing unit storing each application rule entered or edited by entry/edit means; and

retrieval and response unit selecting an application rule from the application rule storing means in accordance with an attribute of a corresponding destination communication entity (Column 12, lines 21 – 24), reading from the setting template storing means a setting template having a setting template name specified by the selected application rule, and distributing the read setting template to the corresponding destination communication entity (Column 6, lines 10 – 26; Column 13, line 63 – Column 14, line 4).

Gai does not explicitly indicate more than one administrator being able to perform separate functions.

Prager teaches a system for making templates to implement policies in a system (Column 5, lines 8 – 19). As part of Prager's system, he discloses that there are some more important global actions that only higher level authority administrators can

perform, in comparison to lower level actions in which lower level authority administrators can perform (Column 11, lines 34 – 42; Column 13, lines 26 – 44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Prager's teaching of having higher and lower authority actions in a template system to ensure only administrators with the proper high level authority are able to perform actions of more global performance and impact to protect the system from mistakes by lower level administrators.

Regarding claim 2, Gai teaches the communication setting management system according to claim 1, further comprising: setting template collective entering means for collectively entering a group of previously defined setting templates into the setting template storing means (Column 13, line 63 – Column 14, line 4).

Regarding claim 3, Gai teaches the communication setting management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of management domains each having at least one communication entity (Column 6, lines 2 – 7), the management domains communicating via a network, and a communication setting management apparatus is disposed in each of the plurality of management domains (Column 10, lines 44 – 47); and

a corresponding management domain imparting on a management domain basis, a different communication characteristics settings to respective communications between communication entities belonging to different management domains, each communication characteristics setting being managed on a corresponding management domain basis (Column 10, lines 38 – 47).

Regarding claim 5, Gai teaches the communication setting management system according to claim 3, further comprising:

a contradiction detection function unit for mutually interchanging information with a communication setting management apparatuses disposed in respective, different management domains, and detecting a contradiction between the information and the setting template and the application rule of its own management domain (Column 17, lines 33 – 44).

Regarding claim 6, Gai teaches the communication setting management system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a contradiction modification function unit for modifying a contradiction at the time when the contradiction is detected that a setting template or setting templates specified by the contradiction detection function unit according to the application rule to be the same, instead are not (Column 18, lines 32 – 35, where the policy translator handles conflicting roles and rules through priority).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed January 23, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 1, the applicant argues that the reference, Prager, does not teach how a first administrator creates a setting template and a second creates the application rule. The examiner disagrees, as seen in Column 13, lines 26 – 44; Prager discloses the roles of a central and local administrator. Included in this disclosure is the

Art Unit: 2155

idea that the central administrators are responsible for central configuration database and template models (Column 13, lines 32 – 35), while the local administrator works with templates to create particular records (Column 13, lines 40 – 44) and attributes for a subset of subscribing systems (Column 13, lines 35 – 39). So seen in the reference, Prager, it is taught that the central and local administrators work together on the same templates to go for a global model to a local particular attributes, as disclosed in the claimed invention. The invention as claimed only implies that one administrator can work on one part of the template process while another administrator can work on a second part, in Prager, column 11, lines 34 – 42 and Column 13, lines 26 – 44, there are a first and second administrator, plus lots more administrators authorized to work on templates, rules, and databases, which allows one administrator to work on one part of the policy implementation and another to work on another. This meets the limitations of the claims which basically just implies that there are two administrators that can work on two different steps of the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2155

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KB

KB

February 14, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saleh Najjar', with a stylized, flowing script.

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER